

# CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

A COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SERVING CASTRO VALLEY SINCE 1989

YEAR 29

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017

NO. 52

## INSIDE YOUR FORUM

### OUR TOWN



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Treat your family and Christmas guests to a gift that won't need wrapping

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PHONE: (510) 537-1792

## MAKING SPIRITS BRIGHT



PHOTOS BY MIKE KADY

Santa Claus and his helper arrive on a fire truck at Castro Valley Rotary Club's Annual Christmas Party for kids and families living in local shelters. SEE STORY ON PAGE 6

## State, County Officials Meet Today to Discuss Legal Pot

The sale and taxation of marijuana for adult use will be legal in California in 12 days and, in preparation, Alameda County is hosting a Winter Cannabis Summit all day today in the County Supervisors' Chambers in Oakland.

Today's meeting is being billed as a way to bring major interests together to discuss the challenges and opportunities related to pot sales.

"The cannabis industry is emerging as a major force," Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, organizer of the Summit, said in a press statement.

"We have a great opportunity for a new source of untapped tax revenue to strengthen our public infrastructure and to grow jobs."

The summit will begin with a morning panel with state licensing officials including the Bureau of

Cannabis Control, CalCannabis Cultivation Licensing, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and California Department of Public Health.

County officials say the meeting's focus will be on regulations concerning manufacturing, retail sales, distributing, laboratory testing and microbusinesses.

The panel will also discuss a track-and-trace system to record the movement of cannabis through the distribution chain.

"As we move toward issuing the first start licenses for commercial cannabis activity, the state's three licensing authorities are grateful for the opportunity to interact with our key local government partners," Bureau of Cannabis Control Chief Lori Ajax said in a statement.

"A tremendous amount of work

has gone into this process and we wouldn't be in the position we are today without the feedback received at events like this summit."

The afternoon panel session will include Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, prevention specialists, and community partners focused on what legalization brings, and cannabis education for youth. The session will also include information about how schools and community groups can prevent access to cannabis.

Tickets for the summit, which runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the supervisors' chambers at 1221 Oak Street in Oakland, have been sold out, but the morning and afternoon sessions will be live-streamed. For more information, visit [alamedacounty.granicus.com/wintercannibissummit](http://alamedacounty.granicus.com/wintercannibissummit)

## MAC Meeting All About the Dangers Of CV Roadways

By Amy Sylvestri  
CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

The Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council's last meeting of the year was all about hitting the road – pedestrian and bicycle safety, traffic gridlock, speeders, and more.

First, the council heard from Maurice Kaufman of the county's public works agency who has been tasked with finding solutions for streets near Stanton Elementary School which don't have sidewalks.

Cars park on the shoulders, forcing pedestrians – including many children – to walk out on the street, which can be dangerous. Kaufman said about \$4.2 million in county funding from Measure B and gas taxes has been set aside to construct concrete sidewalks on Stanton Ave. from Castro Valley Blvd. to Miramar Avenue.

The bad news is that the project design phase won't be completed for at least a year and construction wouldn't begin until mid-2019. And the county will have to get the permission of about 60 property owners along the route to enter their property to build the sidewalks, although Kaufman said he didn't anticipate having any problems with the homeowners.

A temporary solution in the interim 18 months will be the painting of white lines along the shoulder to show drivers that they need to allow space for pedestrians and bicyclists when they park. Kaufman said the painting will commence next month, weather permitting, and that law enforcement will be able to ticket drivers who cross the line.

Several speakers, including some kids from Stanton, addressed the MAC to urge them to get the project up and running.

"I walk rain or shine," said a student named Sam. "Please keep our sidewalks safe."

Amy Ramos of the Stanton PTA said "All I want for Christmas is sidewalks."

And MAC member Linda Tangren agreed that the project needs

to be prioritized, saying that during peak times at the school people double park and make the kids step even farther out into the street.

"This is a critically unsafe situation for kids," said Tangren.

The discussion then switched to traffic on canyon roads – especially Palomares and Crow Canyon. A boom in housing construction in San Ramon and Dublin has turned those roads into major commuter arteries, according to residents. And traffic apps like Waze don't help because when people see I-580 getting congested, they switch to the side streets.

Speakers said that there were two problems – people speeding when the roads are clear, and bumper-to-bumper traffic when they are not.

MAC member Chuck Moore suggested that the areas be rezoned to agricultural districts so speed limits can be changed, saying it takes him twice as long to get out of his Crow Canyon Road driveway than it did a few years ago because he can't find a gap in the speeding traffic.

"It's a heck of a lot different than it was five years ago," said Moore. "It's gotten a lot worse."

Representatives from the CHP and the Alameda County Sheriff's Office shared some statistics.

"People are driving way too fast on these roads," said Sheriff's Sgt. Brian Martinez. "We do enforcement, but we are stretched thin."

The CHP reported that there have been four serious accidents on Palomares Road this year during a period when much of the road was closed due to storm repairs.

And there have been 57 accidents on Crow Canyon Road, including a fatal crash last week. In most cases, these are single vehicle accidents where speed causes the driver to lose control and crash.

Moore added that when people hit PG&E poles, he and his neighbors are often without power for hours at a time.

"Where you have 57 accidents on one road, you have a problem," said Moore.



## Castro Valley Weather Dec. 20 - 24, 2017



Wednesday  
Cloudy, Showers  
High 56° Low 38°



Thursday  
Sunny  
High 55° Low 35°



Friday  
Mostly Sunny  
High 56° Low 37°



Saturday  
Partly Cloudy  
High 38° Low 41°



Sunday  
Partly Sunny  
High 59° Low 40°

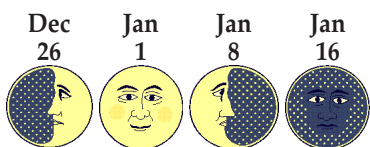
### Almanac



Past Week's Rain: 00.00  
Season To Date: 03.58  
Normal To Date: 06.39  
Season Average: 21.22

Sun sets at 4:54 p.m. today, rises at 7:22 a.m. Thursday.

### Moon Phases



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### SPORTS HALL OF FAME

## Younger Brother Scott Pellaton Sheds His Skis and Sets Record

*Fourth in a series profiling the 16 new members of the Castro Valley Sports Hall of Fame. The induction banquet will take place April 21, 2018, at Redwood Canyon Event Center.*

By Dave Del Grande  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

If you have an older brother, chances are you are familiar with the story of Scott Pellaton. Older brother is doing fun stuff with his friends.

Younger brother wants to tag along.

Younger brother wants to do the fun stuff, too.

Older brother relents.

Younger brother goes on to set a world record.

OK, that latter part is probably what separates Pellaton from most of us.

That and his willingness, at age 13, to water ski without skis.

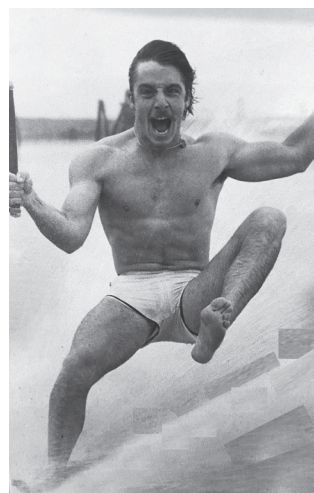
"Skis always bothered me," insisted Pellaton, one of 16 members of the 2018 Castro Valley Sports Hall of Fame class.

A graduate of Marshall Elementary, Earl Warren Junior High and Canyon High (1975), Pellaton was born into a watersports family.

His family owned boats, his father's business partner owned a big boat, and his older brother Tim knew how to get access to boats.

It all conspired to make an elementary-school student curious.

"We laugh about that," Pellaton said of his brother Tim, who is nine years older. "You have these 20-year-olds, and they'd let me come along. Think about that ... Would you want to be bothered by a 12-year-old? But these guys embraced it. It became a part of my life."



**Scott Pellaton preferred water skiing without skis**

Life began as a 20-mph skier with skis.

Before long, with brother Tim at the throttle, it became 35 mph.

And then, after he watched Danny Churchill break the world record by going 124 mph at the Oakland Estuary in 1973 ...

"I was star-struck," the then-high school sophomore recalled. "From that moment, I was on a mission."

All of a sudden, 35 mph wasn't enough.

"I had no idea what I was doing," Pellaton assured. "I went 112."

And then reality set in. Even state-of-the-art O'Neill wet suits didn't come with parachutes in the 1970s.

Pellaton crashed, tore an MCL in his knee and came to the conclusion that, at 100-plus mph, thank goodness the water ski, which was also going triple digits, hadn't hit him and done more damage than just a ligament tear.

"It's a giant projectile," he said

of skis. "I always thought ... How you going to crash? How are you going to get out of this thing? That's one advantage to barefooting."

So Pellaton, who entered the Air Force after graduating from Canyon, went ski-less.

He went 68 mph at a competition in Bakersfield in 1977 before recognizing one advantage of skis — they're better for the skin at the bottom of your feet.

Unfazed, Pellaton had a new goal: Lee Kirk's world record of 110.02 mph.

It didn't take long. Pellaton set a record of 119 mph in 1983.

But the thought of going 120 scared him. Imagine that.

"As time went on, I found better ways, safer ways, to go fast," he noted. "I always had the idea in my mind: I never wanted to ski faster than I wanted to fall."

"At 110 mph, you could do a slide-out. Let go of the rope and slide a couple hundred yards on your butt."

"But at more than 110, the drag was so tremendous, your upper-body weight would want to go first. You took a chance to catch your head or your neck."

Enter: the parachute. And, eventually, several new world records, with a top speed of 135.74 mph in 1989 that still stands as the documented mark today.

"From the very beginning, my goal was to be faster than anybody else," he said. "I had a contract that guaranteed me money if I had the fastest time that year. So I made sure I did. Seven years in a row."

"I entered other competitions. I did both Marine Worlds (Redwood City and Vallejo). I did tricks. You get a trophy at the end see **SPORTS on back page**



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Sunday  
10am-2pm

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PHOTO BY LINDA SANDSMARK

## You've Got Mail: Long Line at The Castro Valley Post Office

The Castro Valley Post Office was a busy place this week. At least two dozen customers were already in line (above) before its 9 a.m. opening Monday. "We all thought we were going to be early," remarked one customer, while another said he wished there was a restroom in the lobby. The Post Office's self-service kiosk and outdoor mailboxes filled up quickly. The recommended deadline to send out Christmas cards was yesterday, Dec. 19. Since there is no regular USPS service next Sunday or Monday, the timeframe for delivery was cut very short this year.

## SHERIFF'S REPORTS

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SINGER • CASTRO VALLEY FORUM



### Spousal Assault

Sunday, December 17: at 9:14 p.m., a 911 call about a loud and aggressive-sounding argument sent Sheriff's deputies to a home on Judy Street near Lodi Way. There they arrested a husband and wife for spousal assault. The 34-year-old husband from Hayward claimed his wife punched him in the throat. The 25-year-old wife from CV noted the man assaulted her as well. The couple was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Wanted Woman

Sunday, December 17: at 3:09 a.m., deputies arrested a 36-year-old woman from Castro Valley on suspicion of assault on a family member. The woman was at a home on Stanton Avenue near Acorn Street when deputies were called to the property to investigate reports of a fight at the home. The woman was found to have a warrant issued for her capture. Deputies took the woman to Santa Rita Jail pending \$50,000 in bail.

**Collared in Front of Pet Store**  
Thursday, December 14: at 11:09 a.m., a 27-year-old woman with no permanent address was arrest-

ed on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. Deputies stopped the woman for questioning outside a pet food store on Castro Valley Boulevard near Wilbeam Avenue. The woman was also wanted as part of a warrant issued for her capture. Deputies took the woman to Santa Rita Jail pending \$10,000 in bail.

### Hiding Behind Storage Unit

Tuesday, December 12: at 6:42 p.m., deputies arrested a 33-year-old man from Castro Valley on suspicion of possession of illegal drug paraphernalia. The man was spotted hiding behind storage containers located near a grocery store on the Boulevard near Redwood Road. An anonymous tip led deputies to the suspect. The man was found with a pipe used for smoking methamphetamine drugs in his pocket. Deputies handcuffed the man and took him into custody.

### Motorcycle Teen Evades Arrest

Tuesday, December 12: at 12:00 noon, a 15-year-old teenage boy was arrested on suspicion of driving a motorcycle on the street without a driver license and evading deputies trying to pull him

over. Deputies spotted the youth driving on Madison Avenue near Seaview Avenue and attempted to stop him for questioning. The teen tried driving into a more rural area, but was stopped. Deputies cited the young man and released him to his parents.

### Narcotics Possession

Tuesday, December 12: at 12:53 p.m., deputies arrested a 52-year-old man from Hayward on suspicion of possession of illegal narcotics drugs. The man was hanging out in the parking lot of Eden Medical Center on Lake Chabot Road when deputies stopped him for questioning and discovered his stash. The man was handcuffed and taken into custody.

### Wanted for Assault and Battery

Monday, December 11: at 10:38 a.m., deputies arrested a 31-year-old man from Sacramento on a bench warrant for his arrest. The man was previously charged with assault and battery. Deputies went to a home on Grove Way near North 6th Street to serve the warrant and found the man at home. The man was taken to Santa Rita Jail pending \$15,000 in bail.

## 'Nutcracker' This Weekend

Alameda Civic Ballet is celebrating 12 years of its full-length Nutcracker ballet by bringing the show to Castro Valley Center for the Arts this Friday and Saturday.

Several local dancers from the Castro Valley Performing Arts dance school will join the cast for the first time in performing Tchaikovsky's classic ballet during the performances on Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and an already-sold-out Saturday matinee. They include Madeline Choy and Sofia Boragno, both 13, and Allyson Young, 12, all of whom

have been dancing for nearly a decade. In addition to ballet, Allyson has competed in tap, jazz, and lyrical dance, while both Sofia and Madeline attended the week-long Aria ballet program at Long Beach's Dancerpalooza this past summer. All three girls will dance as "Angels" in the production.

Several younger CV dancers, ages 9-10, will join the cast as Ice Crystals, who dance in the "Snow" scene alongside the Snow Queen and King and the Snowflakes.

For tickets, or more info, visit [www.AlamedaNutcracker.com](http://www.AlamedaNutcracker.com)

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**Special Holiday Events**

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Sun., Dec. 24	11 a.m.	Christmas Truce Play
Sun., Dec. 31	4 a.m.	World Healing Meditation
Sun., Dec. 31	11 a.m.	White Stone Ceremony

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## The Week Ahead

### ● Wednesday, December 20: Free Community Band Concert

Start your holiday peacefully with the Castro Valley Adult & Career Education Community Band, conducted by Kathy Maier, at its free winter concert “Celebrating the Holidays in Song” at 7:30 p.m. next Wednesday at the Castro Valley High School Cafeteria. The evening will feature songs of the season and an audience sing-along, and end with refreshments, courtesy of Castro Valley Adult & Career Education.

### ● Wednesday & Thursday, Dec. 20-21: Coat & Sweater Drive

The Castro Valley Adult School is continuing its Coat and Sweater Drive through tomorrow. Donations can be dropped off at 4430 Alma Avenue. With the cold weather here, there are many people who will enjoy the warm coat that you can donate.

### ● Friday, December 22: Living Nativity and Caroling

The San Leandro Church of Christ invites you to join them at the corner of MacArthur Blvd. and Lewis Ave. from 6 to 7:30 p.m. this Friday for cookies, caroling and hot chocolate while viewing live animals in a manger scene. Free parking in the lot in back of the church at 601 MacArthur Blvd. or on the street. Drop by for a few minutes.

## CASTRO VALLEY FORUM

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### Monday, December 25, 2017 Christmas Day Schedules

● **Government:** Christmas will be observed as a federal, state, county and city holiday on Monday, Dec. 25. Except for emergency services, all government offices will be closed. The U.S. Postal Service, however, will be making some package deliveries.

● **Stores, Offices, Restaurants:** Some supermarkets, restaurants and pharmacies will be open, but most of those will be operating on a shortened schedule, so plan ahead for food and medical needs. All banks and nearly all business offices, including the Forum office in San Leandro, will be closed on Monday.

● **Public Transit:** BART trains and AC Transit buses will operate on a normal Sunday schedule. For other transit schedules (ferries, etc.), visit [transit.511.org/schedules/holiday.aspx](http://transit.511.org/schedules/holiday.aspx)

● **Garbage Collection:** No recycling, organics, and garbage collection services by Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC) will occur on Christmas Day or New Year's Day. Instead, collection service will be one day later than usual through Saturday. In addition, the Customer Service Office will close at 1 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. For Christmas Tree Collection, place tree curbside during the first two weeks of January on your regular pick-up day. For solid waste service questions, please call WMAC at (510) 537-5500 (residential) or (510) 613-8700 (commercial/business).

● **Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan)** offices will be closed on Monday and Tuesday, Dec. 25-26, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Please call (510) 506-5821 for sewer emergencies. For information regarding CVSan services, visit [www.cvsan.org](http://www.cvsan.org).

## ...and Beyond

### ● Saturday, December 23: Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

The Creekside Middle School Parent-Teacher Club will be holding a gift-wrap service fundraiser from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. this Saturday at Shari's Restaurant (in the back patio area) at 3360 Castro Valley Blvd. Wrapping prices are \$3 to \$10 for most gifts. Proceeds will go toward raising a goal of \$25,000 to save the school crossing guard program. The presence of a crossing guard seems quite vital along a high traffic street to help ensure the safe passage of students across Center Street.

### ● Sunday, December 31: Plethos New Year's Eve Showcase

Everyone's invited to the Plethos New Year's Eve Launch Party & Showcase at Ristorante Di Palermo in Downtown Hayward from 9 p.m. New Year's Eve to 1 a.m. New Year's morning. This fun event will feature 10 musical theatre numbers, improv comedy, dancing, a count-down and balloon drop with Italian small plates and champagne toast for all. For tickets (\$50 each) or more information, visit [Plethos.org](http://Plethos.org)

### ● Sunday, January 14: Documentary "A Time of Justice"

The Castro Valley Community Alliance in partnership with the Castro Valley Library will be hosting "A Time of Justice" a documentary film depicting the Civil Rights struggle from 2 to 4 p.m. at the library. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion. For more information, visit [sites.google.com/cv.k12.ca.us/cvcommunityalliance/home](http://sites.google.com/cv.k12.ca.us/cvcommunityalliance/home)

### ● Wednesday, January 3: Hikes for Tikes

This Hayward Area Recreation District program is for children 2 to 5 years old. The six-week program will check out a different HARD park each week, examining each through hands-on exploration and games. Come to one or visit them all and be ready for natural adventures. The program begins January 3 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. at College Heights Park at 27020 Fielding Drive in Hayward. For more information, call 510-670-7270 or visit [www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org)

## Arts & Entertainment

### CASTRO VALLEY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*Tickets for Center for the Arts events listed below are available online at [www.cvcfa.com](http://www.cvcfa.com); or at the Center Box Office, 19501 Redwood Road, Thursdays and Fridays 3-5 p.m. (phone 889-8961), or at the Castro Valley Adult School, 4430 Alma Avenue.*

● **"Nutcracker Ballet,"** will be presented at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 22, and at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 23. Alameda Civic Ballet is celebrating a dozen years of its Nutcracker ballet by bringing the full-length show to Castro Valley for the first time. Several local dancers from the Castro Valley Performing Arts dance school will join the cast. For tickets (\$21-\$31) visit [www.AlamedaNutcracker.com](http://www.AlamedaNutcracker.com)

● **"Cabaret"** – Join musical entertainer Tom Reardon and Bay Area stage favorites as they ring in the New Year with music and song. Bring your friends and enjoy appetizers and dessert and toast 2018 with champagne, wine, beer, soft drinks (cash bar). Come early to start the party at 6:00 p.m. Show starts at 7:30, sponsored by the Castro Valley Arts Foundation. For tickets (\$55-\$60) visit [www.cvcfa.com](http://www.cvcfa.com).

### THEATRICAL & MUSICAL PERFORMANCES

● **Holiday Concert:** "Special Songs for a Special Time of the Year" will be presented by the Morrisson Theatre Chorus under the direction of César Cancino Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 21, 22, and 23 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 24, at 2 p.m. at the Douglas Morrisson Theatre, 22311 N. Third St. in Hayward. For tickets (\$18-\$12), visit [www.dmtonline.org](http://www.dmtonline.org) or call 510-881-6777.

### AT THE GALLERIES

● **Runes Revealed – Contemporary Artists Respond to an Ancient Alphabet,** a mixed media exhibition by Nordic 5 Arts inspired by the ancient form of writing no longer in use, will be on display until Jan. 13, at the Adobe Art Gallery, 20395 San Miguel Ave. in Castro Valley. Select works will also be on exhibit from Nov. 30 to Jan 5 at PhotoCentral Gallery, 1099 E St. in Hayward. For info, visit [www.nordic5arts.com](http://www.nordic5arts.com)

● **Artist Open Studio Every Thursday:** Join this informal gathering of artists working together in a friendly and helpful atmosphere. Adobe Art Center hosts provides tables, chairs and easels. \$3. Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Redwood Studio 1 at the Adobe Art Center, 20395 San Miguel Ave, Castro Valley

### HOROSCOPE by Salomé

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**ARIES (March 21 - April 19):** Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.



**TAURUS (April 20 - May 20):** You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down for the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.



**GEMINI (May 21 - June 20):** The creative Twin finds outlets for her or his ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.



**CANCER (June 21 - July 22):** It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.



**LEO (July 23 - August 22):** Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Best to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.



**VIRGO (August 23 - Sept. 22):** Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the holidays. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what happened.



**LIBRA (Sept. 23 - October 22):** Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.



**SCORPIO (October 23 - November 21):** Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.



**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21):** Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19):** It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18):** Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.



**PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20):** You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.



PHOTO BY ALAMEDA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Saturday's Big Traffic Snarl on I-580

This big rig overturned on eastbound I-580 near the Crow Canyon offramp in Castro Valley at around 11 a.m. last Saturday, leading to multiple lane closures and clogging traffic for hours. All lanes were finally reopened around 4 p.m. There were no injuries, according to the Alameda County Fire Department and the cause of the crash is under investigation.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

● Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) usually meets on land-use issues on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, and holds general purpose meetings on most 3rd Mondays. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Avenue.

● Castro Valley School Board usually meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 4400 Alma Ave.

● Castro Valley Sanitary District (CVSan) meets at 6:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month at 21040 Marshall St.

● Alameda County Board of Supervisors meets every Tuesday at 10:45 a.m. in the Supervisors Chambers at 1221 Oak St. in Oakland.



# Seniors

## WILL MOM LOSE COVERAGE IF SHE LEAVES THE NURSING HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

*Q: Mom has been receiving care in a nursing home. She is currently covered by Medicare, but soon will switch to Medi-Cal. She would really like to come to our home for a short visit during the holidays. However, I heard that she might lose her coverage if she does so. Is that true?*

**By Gene L. Osofsky, Esq.**  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: Not if her visit is handled correctly, including arranging for a "pass" from the nursing home for the visit and making sure that it is included in her Plan of Care. In this regard, the rules for Medicare are different from the rules for Medi-Cal. Here's the way they work:

• **Medicare:** While the Medicare Benefits Policy Manual recognizes that most beneficiaries needing nursing level care are unable to leave the facility, it recites that "the fact that a patient is granted an outside pass or short leave of absence for the purpose of attending a special religious service, holiday meal, family occasion, going on a car ride, or for a trial visit home, is not, by itself evidence that the individual no longer needs to be in a [nursing home] for the receipt of required skill care."

The Manual also states that is not appropriate for the facility to notify the patient that the visit home will result in a denial of coverage. However, it is best if your mom returns before midnight on the same day, as Medicare will only pay for that one day away.

If her visit extends out more than the same day, the facility can charge her privately for the bed-hold for each day thereafter, so long as it has advised her, in advance, that it will do so and the cost for same.

So, short visits of one or two days to be with family is entirely appropriate, and will not result in a loss of Medicare coverage, but—after the first day away—the visit may require private payment to hold her bed.

• **Medi-Cal:** The rules for persons on Medi-Cal are more lenient.

If your mom's stay is covered by Medi-Cal at the time of her visit, she could be granted a leave of absence (LOA) of up to 18 days per calendar year, provided that the physician approves the LOA and writes it into her Plan of Care. Medi-Cal will cover the first seven (7) days of "bed hold" while she is away.

Further, she could be granted up to an additional 12 days of LOA per year under certain conditions. So, again, if your mom were relying upon Medi-Cal for nursing home coverage, her visit home should not be a problem, but be sure to request that the physician writes the planned LOA into her Plan of Care.

Good wishes to your mom and family, and I hope that she enjoys the holidays with those she loves.

*Gene L. Osofsky is an Elder Law and Estate Planning attorney in Hayward. Visit his website at [www.LawyerForSeniors.com](http://www.LawyerForSeniors.com).*

## Recognizing, Treating Depression in Retirees

*Q: Since retiring a few years ago, my husband has become increasingly irritable and apathetic. I'm concerned that he's depressed, even though he may not admit it. Where can we turn to get help with this, and what, if anything, does Medicare pay for?*

**By Jim Miller**  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

A: Depression is unfortunately a widespread problem among older Americans, affecting approximately 15 percent of the 65-and-older population.

Here's what you should know, along with some tips and resources for screening and treatments, and how Medicare covers it.

### Identifying Depression

Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression.

Depression is a real illness that affects mood, feelings, behavior and physical health, and contrary to what many people believe, it's not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, but it is very treatable.

It's also important to know that depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest as apathy, irritability, or problems with memory or concentration without the depressed mood.

To help you get a handle on the seriousness of your husband's problem, a good first step is for him to take an online depression-screening test.

He can do this for free at Mental Health America, a national nonprofit organization that offers a variety of online mental health screening tools at [MentalHealthAmerica.net](http://MentalHealthAmerica.net) — click on "Take a Screen" in the menu bar. Or at [HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org](http://HelpYourselfHelpOthers.org), which is offered by Screening for Mental Health, Inc.

Both of these tests are anonymous and confidential, they take less than 10 minutes, and they can help you determine the severity of your husband's problem.

### Get Help

If you find that he is suffering from depressive symptoms, he needs to see his doctor for a medical evaluation to rule out possible medical causes.

Some medications, for example, can produce side effects that mimic depressive symptoms — pain and sleeping meds are common culprits. It's also important to distinguish between depression and dementia, which can share some of the same symptoms.

If he's diagnosed with depression, there are a variety of treatment options including talk therapy, antidepressant medications or a combination of both.



**Depression is not just sadness. In many seniors it can manifest in different ways.**

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) is a particularly effective type of talk therapy, which helps patients recognize and change destructive thinking patterns that leads to negative feelings.

For help finding a therapist who's trained in CBT, ask your doctor for a referral, check your local yellow pages under "counseling" or "psychologists," or check with the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies ([FindCBT.org](http://FindCBT.org)), or the Academy of Cognitive Therapy ([Academy-ofCT.org](http://Academy-ofCT.org)).

And to search for therapists that accept Medicare, use Medicare's Physician Compare tool. Go to [Medicare.gov/physiciancompare](http://Medicare.gov/physiciancompare) and type in your zip code, or city and state, then type in the type of profession you want locate, like "psychiatry" or "clinical psychologist" in the "What are you searching for?" box.

### Medicare Coverage

You'll be happy to know that original Medicare currently covers 100 percent for annual depression screenings that are done in a doctor's office or other primary care clinic.

They also pay 80 percent of its approved amount for outpatient mental health services like counseling and therapy services, and will cover almost all medications used to treat depression under the Part D prescription drug benefit.

If you and your husband get your Medicare benefits through a private Medicare Advantage plan, they too must cover the same services as original Medicare but they will likely require him to see an in-network provider. You'll need to contact your plan directly for the details.

*Jim Miller is a contributor to the NBC Today show and author of "The Savvy Senior" book.*

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E	O	N	S	C	O	L	T	U	T	E
G	U	A	C	A	M	O	L	E	A	C
O	N	E	S	R	U	T	H	S		
A	N	G	R	Y	L	I	F	E		
G	O	U	T	S	L	A	L	O	M	E
O	V	A	R	E	E	S	E	A	G	O
G	A	R	M	E	N	T	S	P	L	O
A	I	N	T	F	L	A	S	H		
S	I	N	C	E	E	D	D	A		
A	N	T	G	U	A	Y	A	Q	U	I
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[howardm@ebpublishing.com](mailto:howardm@ebpublishing.com)

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## HELP WANTED

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**LANDLORDS** - Advertise your units! A vacancy day is money lost forever ... R. Bowman

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San Leandro Times/Castro Valley Forum

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**VIEW the CLASSIFIED Ads Online at**  
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For help or for more info call **510-614-1558**. E.B. Publishing

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## YOUR INFO

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[sanleandrotimes.com](http://sanleandrotimes.com) or [castrovalleyforum.com](http://castrovalleyforum.com)  
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## Help for the homeowner means business for you!



**ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR HOME SERVICES DIRECTORY**  
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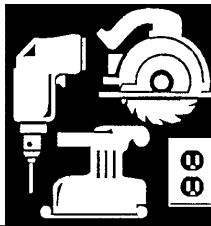
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**20% OFF WITH THIS AD**



## Obituaries

■ BRAZIL, Donald ■ HOWARD, Lynn ■ TASTO, Deidrich

### Lynn Howard 1943-2017



Lynn Howard, 74, of Castro Valley, California passed away peacefully at home on Monday, December 11, 2017. At the time of her passing, Lynn was surrounded by love, with daughter and best friend, Carrie Howard, holding her hand and her beloved dog, Munchkin, by her side.

Lynn Kerr was born in Oakland, California to George and Myrtle Kerr. Raised in Oakland, Lynn graduated from Fremont High School and later received her certificate in medical assisting from Laney College. Lynn got her start at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital in Oakland, and then enjoyed an impressive 30 plus year career at Kaiser Permanente in Hayward where many of her coworkers became family to her.

Lynn was truly cherished by many. Caring, compassionate, kind, and with a great sense of humor, Lynn always had a smile on her face. Lynn was also compassionate about giving back, supporting charities that cared for animals, wildlife, and the environment, as well as people in need. She loved cooking, spending time with loved ones, and taking walks, especially with Munchkin. She is, and will continue to be, greatly missed.

Lynn is survived by her daughter Carrie Howard of Castro Valley, California and her sister Trudy Kerr of San Leandro, California.

In the last few years of her life, Lynn fought valiantly in her struggle with Alzheimer's. A charitable fund in Lynn's honor, and to help others with this terrible disease, has been set up through the Alzheimer's Association. You can find it by visiting [https://www.alz.org/join\\_the\\_cause\\_tributes.asp](https://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_tributes.asp) and click on 'Find a Tribute' and search for Lynn Howard.

Rather than having a memorial service, it was Lynn's wish that her family and friends gather to share stories, laughter, and each other's company. Further information on the date and time of this event will be forthcoming. (It will probably be held in warmer weather as we all knew how Lynn hated to be cold!) Please contact her daughter, Carrie Howard, to share stories or for any questions email [LynnHowardMemories@aol.com](mailto:LynnHowardMemories@aol.com).

### Donald Louis Brazil



Donald Louis Brazil was born to Louis and Mildred Brazil on September 16, 1935. He was born in Hayward, California in an apartment at the corner of Main Street and D Street. For a short time, the family moved to Vallejo, California where Don's father worked at Mare Island Naval Shipyard during WWII. The family moved back to Hayward when Louis was transferred to Hunter's Point Navy Shipyard in San Francisco and they returned to D Street.

Don attended Markham Grammar School, Bret Harte Junior High School, and Hayward High School. In the 1940s, he was an altar boy at All Saints Catholic Church. Out of high school, he worked at the Purity store at the corner of C Street and Main Street. He also enlisted in the Army National Guard where he served eight years before being honorably discharged as a platoon sergeant, sergeant first class in the 49th infantry division.

He worked several years at the Hudson Lumber Company and the Thrifty Drug Company warehouse, both in San Leandro. Don enjoyed baseball and softball and played on many teams in the area including the Hunts Team, Bras & Silva, and Prings as a pitcher.

In 1961, Don became a firefighter for the Hayward Fire Department where he worked for twenty-eight years. He fought several of Hayward's largest fires during that time. In 1971, he was honored to be named "Fireman of the Year" by the Hayward Chamber of Commerce. He worked his way up from hoseman, to fire inspector, to Captain and then retired in 1989.

In the meantime, he married Jane Valente in 1956 and moved to Castro Valley in 1961. Don and Jane enjoyed spending time with his brothers and sisters-in-law, David and Janice, and Michael and Carol. Don and Jane spent 61 happy years raising their two sons, Roy and Jim, watching them marry beautiful wives, Cyndi and Cindy, and helping to raise four grandchildren, Kris, Jennifer, Taylor, and Cody. Don enjoyed watching his kids and grandkids play sports and participate in school activities. He even spent ten years as a little league team manager.

Don was an extremely dedicated grandfather and enjoyed sharing their achievements with his friends. Jennifer is now a doctor of physical therapy and recently married her high school sweetheart, Mark, adding another grandson to the mix. Taylor is a special education teacher and Cody is a college student working towards a career in music. While humble, Don was very proud of his accomplishments, especially his family and will be missed by many.

Donald passed away peacefully during the evening on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 surrounded by his family. Service was held on Dec. 19 at Holy Angels Sorensen Chapel in Hayward. Funeral mass today, Dec. 20 at 9 a.m. at All Saints Church, Hayward, followed by burial at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Hayward. Per Don's wishes, in lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to: Hayward Firefighters Charitable Foundation, 22734 Main Street, Hayward, CA, 94541.

# Yes Virginia, There is a Santa Claus

## The NEW YORK Sun

Reprinted from the September 21, 1897, number of The New York Sun.

We take pleasure in answering thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun:

Dear Editor—  
I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa

Claus. Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so."

Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia O'Hanlon  
115 W. 95th St., New York

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical

age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours, man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence.

We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The external light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the

chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived could tear apart. Only faith, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! He lives and lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

## Obituaries

Since 1965  
**Jess C. Spencer**  
Mortuary &  
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Castro Valley  
581-9133

### In Our Care

James Edwin Moreland

Born  
June 5, 1918

Entered into Rest  
December 17, 2017



FD 1168 CR49

### CASTRO VALLEY FORUM OBITUARIES

may be emailed to:  
[obits@ebpublishing.com](mailto:obits@ebpublishing.com)  
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Include a phone number.  
For help, call Patrick Vadnais

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### Deidrich (Dick) Lee Tasto

Jan. 22, 1933 – Dec. 12, 2017



Long time resident of Castro Valley 1960-2013 prior to moving to San Ramon.

Dick Tasto passed away early Tuesday morning after long battle with Vascular Dementia. He was surrounded by his wife and daughters as he transitioned from this life to eternity. He was 84 years old. Dick was born in Oakland California, he attended Bret Harte Junior High and Fremont High School. At the age of 14 years he started working where his father had worked prior to his death, Sanders Glass. This was the beginning of a 65 year career culminating in him owning his own business, D&C Glass and Aluminum. He was very proud to be a member of Glaziers Union #169, when he went into management and then owning his business he never gave up his membership. He was thrilled when he was given a luncheon to celebrate his 60th year in the union. He had mentored many that were in the audience. At the age of 18, Dick joined the Air Force, he was active duty during the Korean War. Dick loved getting involved with his daughter's schools and activities, he was President of the PTA, he was in charge of Sydney Elementary School carnivals and he coached many Miss Softball America teams. Dick retired and turned the business over to his daughter and grandson making them the 3rd and 4th generation in the business.

Dick is survived by his loving wife of 62 years Carol, his devoted daughters Coreen Tasto of Castro Valley, Sherry Tasto (d. 1958) Lori Simaz (Charles) of Orinda, Judi Cruze and Sherri Tasto-Muller both of San Ramon. Grandchildren David Pacheco (Aimee) of San Leandro, Sarah Smith of Berkeley, Nick Cruze of San Francisco, Amy Shelton (Paige) of El Paso, TX. Matthew Smith (Kaye) of Fairfield, Grant and Cole Muller of San Ramon. Great-grandson Nathan Smith of Fairfield. Many cousins, nieces, nephews. He's proceeded in death by his brothers Harry and Billy and his sisters Helena Unsworth and Thelma Sallings.

Service was held Dec. 19th at 11 a.m. at Saint Patrick's Catholic Church, 116 Bradford Street, Sonoma, California followed by a brief burial at the cemetery.

## THE FORUM CROSSWORD

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### ACROSS

- 1 Muse's instrument
- 5 Renders speechless
- 9 Obtain
- 12 Billions of years
- 13 Future stallion
- 14 Multipurpose truck
- 15 Avocado dip
- 17 Top card
- 18 Singles
- 19 Gordon and Ginsburg
- 21 Mad
- 24 It begins at 40
- 25 Toe woe
- 26 Zigzagged on skis
- 30 Eggs
- 31 Actress Witherspoon
- 32 Past
- 33 Clothing
- 35 Story line
- 36 "\_\_\_ She Sweet?"
- 37 Instant
- 38 From then on
- 40 Icelandic epic
- 42 Industrious insect
- 43 Port city of Ecuador
- 48 Eisenhower
- 49 Being, to Brutus
- 50 \_\_\_ Major
- 51 Caustic solution
- 52 "\_\_\_ of Our Lives"
- 53 Shade trees

### DOWN

- 1 Lower limb
- 2 Thee
- 3 Genetic letters
- 4 Accompany to a party
- 5 Pinnacle
- 6 Courts
- 7 Right angle
- 8 Germ-free
- 9 Central American nation
- 10 Leave an impression
- 11 Golf gadgets
- 16 Whatever number
- 20 Aliens' craft
- 21 Enthusiastic, plus
- 22 PBS science show
- 23 Insure
- 24 Glasgow girl
- 26 Transmitted
- 27 Allow
- 28 Hollywood clasher
- 29 "... \_\_\_ protest too much"
- 31 Went back on an agreement
- 34 Karaoke need, for short
- 35 Award for a dentist?
- 37 Med. approval org.
- 38 Take to the seas
- 39 Black
- 40 Simple
- 41 Coloring agents
- 44 Can. neighbor
- 45 Web address
- 46 Doctrine
- 47 \_\_\_ Vegas

ANSWERS ON PAGE 5



# REAL ESTATE GALLERY



**HOME of the WEEK**

**Castro Valley Home & 31,000 +sq. ft. LOT**

Nice single story home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and over 1,540 Sq. Ft. There is a large basement, lots of storage space and great side yard access. There is also a great workshop located in the garage. Near great Castro Valley Schools. Needs some updating, very private and easy access to schools, shopping, freeway and close to BART.



4455 E. Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley • \$855,000

**WISHING YOU & YOUR FAMILY  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

**Kristy Peixoto, REALTOR, GRI, CRS**

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## REAL ESTATE REALITY

By Carl Medford, CRS  
Special to the Forum

GUEST COMMENTARY



## The Season of Giving

With our state focusing on the unseasonal fires raging across California, we have been distracted for weeks. Consequently, it feels like Christmas snuck up on us this year.

Approaching the heart of the holidays, Central County Realtors want to remind you this is the season of giving. We urge you to focus outward to meet housing needs at home and abroad.

*Give Locally:* As the weather turns colder, the homeless in the Bay Area need additional support.

While it is easy to stereotype the homeless, they are real people with specific needs that we can meet. Go to <https://trust.guidestar.org/> for a list of the 16 Top Non-profits Fighting Bay Area Homelessness.

*Give Statewide:* For those of us spending the holidays in warm, safe dwellings, remember the fire victims across California who've

recently lost their homes.

Fire is no respecter of persons and the devastation has impacted every socio-economic category. With the most recent fires devastating Southern California, those just to the north of us who lost everything have vanished from the news. Their needs are still real.

While there are numerous groups helping with relief, the primary organization is the American Red Cross at [www.redcross.org/donate/](http://www.redcross.org/donate/). Fire victims do not need used clothing or similar items – direct donations to nonprofit organizations set up to receive charitable gifts are best.

*Give Nationally:* The flooding in the Houston area is over, but the rebuilding efforts have just begun. [www.redcross.org/donate/](http://www.redcross.org/donate/) to learn how to partner with relief efforts.

*Give Globally:* As a family, we have chosen to forego giving gifts to adults and to focus instead on

providing for the needs of families around the world.

Every year we collaborate with [www.worldvision.org](http://www.worldvision.org) to provide funds that will buy a cow or other animals for families in less-fortunate areas. We also give to [www.streetsofhope.com](http://www.streetsofhope.com), an organization in Kenya that takes abandoned boys from the streets and provides them with housing, food, clothing and a full education. The boys are taken from a life of despair and given the gift of hope.

We want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and happy holidays. It is our sincere hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful peace-filled season and that you experience the joy that comes from giving to others and meeting them at their point of need.

Carl Medford is a licensed Realtor with Keller Williams Realty. This article is sponsored by the Central County Marketing Association.

## Do Yard Work Now to Reap Springtime Benefits

Lots of people think their family yards need less attention in the late fall but this is no time to ignore your lawn and landscape.

"What you do now will determine the quality of your family yard next spring and summer," explained Kris Kiser of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute, the association representing more than 100 power equipment, engine and utility vehicle manufacturers and suppliers.

"Every gardener knows to plant bulbs in the fall but now is also the time to mow, aerate, mulch, trim and patch your lawn," said Kiser. He offers these tips to help you get your yard ready for more relaxing and fun outdoor activities next year.

**Keep mowing.** Grass still needs regular care to stay healthy. Grass that's too high may attract lawn-damaging field mice. Shorter grass is more resistant to diseases and traps fewer falling leaves. Cutting the grass low lets more sun reach the crown of the grass, so less leaf will turn brown in the winter.

However, cutting off too much at one time can be damaging, so never trim more than a third of the grass blades off in a single cutting. Put mower blades on the lowest settings for the last two cuts of the



**A gas-powered portable generator can help keep the lights on in the event of a power outage.**

season.

**Aerate your lawn.** Compressed soil hurts grass health. Aerating punches holes into the soil and lets oxygen, water and nutrients into a lawn. Use a walk-behind aerator or get an attachment to pull behind a riding mower.

**Mulch your leaves.** Many mowers can mulch leaves with an attachment. Since mulching with a mower can mix grass clippings with leaf particles, these nitrogen-rich grass particles and carbon-rich leaf particles will compost more quickly. Together, they return nutrients to the soil.

**Trim and shore up trees and bushes.** Use trimmers, chain saws or pole pruners to cut back trees, shrubs and plants. Make sure branches are safely trimmed back from overhead lines and not in danger of falling on a structure in rough weather.

You may need to tie or brace limbs of upright evergreens or plants to prevent them from breaking in high winds or snow. Call a professional arborist for big trees or hard-to-reach spots.

**Repair bald spots.** This is a great time to patch bald or thin spots in a lawn. The easiest way

to do this is with an all-in-one lawn repair mixture (found at most garden shops and home centers). Use a garden rake or dethatcher to scratch loose the soil on the spot.

Kiser also stresses that it's important to follow safety procedures whenever using outdoor power equipment. Read your owner's manual. It will describe the individual requirements for your particular machine and provide directions on which fuels may be appropriate for your product.

Fuels containing more than 10 percent ethanol should not be used unless directed in the owner's manual.

Most gas-fueled outdoor power equipment is warranted and designed to run on E10 (10 percent ethanol) fuel or less. There are fuel options available today that should not be used in your outdoor power equipment. Remember to "look before you pump" and make sure to drain the fuel tank before storing equipment for the winter. Safely dispose of any fuel that is more than 30 days old.

For information on safe fueling, go to [www.LookBeforeYouPump.com](http://www.LookBeforeYouPump.com). For tips on outdoor power equipment safety, go to [www.opei.org](http://www.opei.org).

—North American Precip Synd., Inc.

## RECENT HOME SALES

### Castro Valley

19608 Adair Drive	94546: \$878,000 3 BD - 1,594	SF - 1955
5114 Camino Alta Mira	94546: \$912,000 4 BD - 1,780	SF - 1973
1587 Knox Street	94546: \$727,000 4 BD - 1,863	SF - 1952
20643 Maria Court	94546: \$620,000 3 BD - 1,569	SF - 1993
2458 McCloud Avenue	94546: \$820,000 3 BD - 1,951	SF - 1959
4767 Mira Loma Street	94546: \$740,000 4 BD - 1,312	SF - 1955
21747 Orange Avenue	94546: \$575,000 2 BD - 848	SF - 1942
17100 Robey Drive	94546: \$860,000 3 BD - 2,230	SF - 1980
16950 Columbia Drive	94552: \$967,000 3 BD - 2,189	SF - 1987
18666 East Cavendish Dr	94552: \$975,000 N/A BD - 1,908	SF - 1978
18508 Mountain Lane	94552: \$865,000 5 BD - 2,039	SF - 1963
4485 Old Dublin Road	94552: \$865,000 5 BD - 2,480	SF - 2003

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$575,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$862,500</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$975,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$862,000</b>

### San Leandro

1550 Bancroft Avenue	94577: \$479,000 3 BD - 1,680	SF - 1976
791 Dolores Avenue	94577: \$725,000 3 BD - 1,381	SF - 1948
1081 Douglas Court	94577: \$605,000 3 BD - 1,234	SF - 1942
2456 Driftwood Way	94577: \$690,000 5 BD - 1,584	SF - 1963
351 Kenilworth Avenue	94577: \$640,000 2 BD - 1,121	SF - 1926
14263 Seagate Drive	94577: \$480,000 2 BD - 904	SF - N/A
1563 136th Avenue	94578: \$750,000 3 BD - 1,834	SF - 1947
1722 140th Avenue	94578: \$550,000 4 BD - 1,604	SF - 1947
1440 151st Avenue	94578: \$580,000 3 BD - 1,150	SF - 1942
1616 167th Avenue	94578: \$431,500 1 BD - 632	SF - 1916
15678 Maubert Avenue	94578: \$455,000 2 BD - 904	SF - 1946
2112 Placer Drive	94578: \$630,000 3 BD - 1,389	SF - 1925
14856 Sylvia Way	94578: \$635,000 2 BD - 1,213	SF - 1945
16130 Windsor Drive	94578: \$675,000 2 BD - 1,411	SF - 1948
14560 Birch Street	94579: \$520,000 3 BD - 1,114	SF - 1953
1342 Devonshire Ave	94579: \$650,000 5 BD - 1,680	SF - 1952
1041 Marquette Way	94579: \$600,000 3 BD - 1,148	SF - 1956
2015 Spirit Way	94579: \$800,000 4 BD - 2,255	SF - 1999

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>18</b>	
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$431,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$617,500</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$800,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$605,306</b>

### San Leandro

1443 Bockman Road	94580: \$650,000 3 BD - 1,339	SF - 1951
15779 Paseo Del Campo	94580: \$615,000 3 BD - 986	SF - 1944
16131 Via Sonora	94580: \$635,000 3 BD - 1,078	SF - 1955
734 Videll Street	94580: \$585,000 3 BD - 1,034	SF - 1951

<b>TOTAL SALES:</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>LOWEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$585,000</b>	<b>MEDIAN AMOUNT: \$625,000</b>
<b>HIGHEST AMOUNT:</b>	<b>\$650,000</b>	<b>AVERAGE AMOUNT: \$621,250</b>



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May you and your family enjoy a holiday season filled with happiness, peace and joy.

**Happy Holidays**



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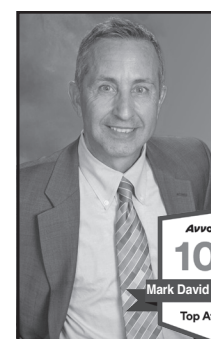
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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

### Krystyna Allman

This week's Athlete of the Week is Krystyna Allman, a senior at Castro Valley High School.

Allman has been a member of the CV Varsity softball team since her freshman year and has been playing softball since she was 5 years old. She is a Pitcher, plays outfield and first base. She grew up playing in Castro Valley for Synergy then moved on to Sorcerers Softball, in Pleasanton, where she still plays.

As a Pitcher for Castro Valley in 2017, Allman had 9-2 record, with a 1.66 E.R.A. and 50 strikeouts. On offense, she lit it up, with a .405 batting average, 14 RBIs, and scored 13 runs.

Allman has maintained a 4.25 GPA and last month all of her hard work paid off as she signed her Letter Of Intent to play Softball for the Cal Poly Mustangs in San Luis Obispo.



## CASTRO VALLEY INDEPENDENT SPORTS LEAGUE

**Youth Baseball and Flag Football Programs**  
www.CVSPORTSLEAGUE.org

## COMMUNITY FRUIT GLEANING EVENT



### SAVE FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED

CVSan staff is organizing a community fruit (and vegetable) glean to benefit local food pantries. Also known as harvesting the extra fruit and vegetables we grow, gleaning has been around for centuries and is a fun way to get some fresh air outside, save food, and provide for those in need.

**CVSan is seeking volunteers to help out on Tuesday, February 6th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.** Join in the fun by calling 510-537-0757 ext. 112 or by emailing [contact@cvsan.org](mailto:contact@cvsan.org) by January 26th (supplies will be purchased by CVSan and provided for use).

## REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE ROT

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## FROM THE BOULEVARD

# The Age of Christmas in CV

*"Time ripens all things;  
no man is born wise."  
—Miguel de Cervantes*

By Thomas E. Lorentzen  
SPECIAL TO THE FORUM

The "sounds of silence" are more than a term expressed in the song of that title, but a movement of thoughts within us.

It is in quietude that we can best listen to the music of our soul and sense of being. That condition does not have to be in solitude, however, but can perform within our hearts and minds while standing within a crowd.

These thoughts were birthed within me during the recent Christmas tree lighting event in the Castro Village. Prior to the lighting, local youth groups performed with adroit dance and music. Added expressions of art were emerging extemporaneously upon the individual faces of the throng gathered for this annual celebration.

As I stood alone, memories returned of similar gatherings during the Christmas Season at the Village. Given my age (71), they went back decades, including the first one when the Village opened more than six decades ago.

Other smiling faces were recalled, of the young and old alike.

Christmas brings to us what it should – a spirit based upon the spirituality of the reason for the season. Going back to the 1950s, I could envision not only my parents and brother being there with me, but my grandparents as well.

I could see them smiling and enjoying prior gatherings. The same with thousands of other people who have gathered there for decades to celebrate and come together to enjoy the community of our lives.

As I watched the joyful activities I noticed that nobody was looking at their iPhone, except for the purpose of taking electronic photographs. The simple gathering of souls for a purpose born of spirituality had made our proclivity for glancing at our electronic devices irrelevant and unimportant.

It was refreshing and enhancing to observe, confirming the superior value of direct human interaction to those of electronic interaction.

The joy and hope of Christmas was performing its magic. The people gathered there were creating memories of their own, as I was recalling those from the past.

It was a nice concert of minds and hearts performing mellifluously and with purpose.

As these feelings were being cadenced it struck me that despite the passage of many years, that 2017 and 1952 were not that far apart. What had been set in motion decades ago in our town were still performing on the stage of the present time. The human spirit continues in its pursuit of hope, joy and love.

Our community continues to provide the foundation for those pursuits. It is a quiet pursuit, for as we learn through the tragedies of time, that our hearts can be lonely hunters. Hence, the value of family, friends and community.

Melancholy is often a sidekick to the Christmas and New Year season, particularly as we age. Reflections upon past years and passed people makes us more aware of the swiftness of time and the brevity of life. It makes us more attuned to the value of the moment and the significance of appreciation and gratitude.

Most of the people gathered, however, were more in the newness of the moment, rather than, as I was - experiencing a continuity with the past.

As the event concluded I started to slowly walk away. I paused, however, in front of the Lime Leaf Thai Restaurant. I looked at the departing throng, dispersing with a dance of the moment to their stride.

As I turned I noticed several teen-agers conversing and laughing among themselves. Suddenly, one of the teenagers said something to me. It was "Hello Grandpa - Merry Christmas!"

At first, I thought he was being a wise guy. A smile appeared on his face, and he repeated his comment to me. I responded with a respectful hello of my own. I glanced again at this smile. It appeared to resonate with sincerity and assumed that to be the case.

As I walked away he continued to monitor me with his eyes along with accompaniment of his smile.

I don't know who he is, for he was a stranger. Yet, somehow, I think he was reading me well, and thoughtfully said something to an unknown stranger at a passing moment in time.

The spirit of Christmas from my perspective remains pivotal to the human experience, and remains well and alive within what we do with our lives, including the young man who said to an unknown and aging man, "Hello grandpa - Merry Christmas." Perhaps in another 50 years someone will do the same with him. Time marches on, and so does our sense of hope and longing for joy in our lives.

Tom Lorentzen lives in Castro Valley. He formerly served on the board of the Institute of Museum & Library Services and the Advisory Board to Southern Oregon University, and has served three Presidential Administrations.

## SPORTS NOTE

### Nomin Sanchir

Nomin Sanchir needs your vote! She wants to participate in Fjallraven Polar to achieve her dream. Since she started hiking with the Nomadic Club, she has been in love with everything outdoors and that includes not only hiking, but climbing too. Sanchir

said, "It is always a great opportunity to explore more mountains and challenge myself with like-minded people. This is a reason I want to participate in Fjallraven Polar to achieve my dream." For more information and to vote for Sanchir, visit [polar.fjallraven.com/contestant/?id=72](http://polar.fjallraven.com/contestant/?id=72)

## Sports: Pellaton Inducted

*continued from page 2*

of the day, and they wind up on a shelf collecting dust. I wanted to make money."

Fittingly, brother Tim played a major role in the ultimate record-setter in Phoenix in 1989.

"My boat broke, and my two secondary boats broke," he said. "I was giving up on the day, like somebody was trying to tell me something. Then my brother found me a boat. The perfect boat. And the perfect driver. It was amazing."

Pellaton got married in 1987, had a son, Scotty, and a daughter,

Alicia, and, before long, settled down a bit.

He took up tandem barefoot skiing.

"I remember setting the tandem (world) record: 99 (mph)," he said of eclipsing the old mark of 87 mph that had stood for 12 years. "I could do that backward. Seriously. I waved as we went through the (finish) lights at 99.

"That was the end of it."

Today, the 61-year-old remains surrounded by water. He lives in Discovery Bay and works for Sanger Boats.

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